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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/598,210

08/21/2006

Maarten Peter Bodlaender

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EXAMINER

HADIZONOOZ, BANAFSHEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3715

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/11/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patatty@ipmvs.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/598,210	Applicant(s) BODLAENDER ET AL.	
	Examiner Banafsheh Hadizonooz	Art Unit 3715	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanier et al. (US 5,103,498) in view of Horvitz et al. (US 6,262,730).

Regarding claim 1, 13 -15 Lanier discloses a tutorial generation unit (e.g. intelligent help system) which is arranged to manage multimedia items according to user preferences comprising:

A processing unit that is arranged to track user defined rules and a rendering unit to generate at least one explanation theme based on the selected rule comprising one audiovisual information and arranged to generate a tutorial intended for user observation (See Abstract, Col.1, 54- col.2, 5, Claim 1, figure 8). Lanier does not specifically disclose that the rules are selected based on their relevance values. However, Horvitz discloses an intelligent user assistance system, wherein a help option is provided to the user by detecting user's goals and intention and based on user's preferences stored in user profile, wherein the system calculates the probabilities of relevant help topics are calculated and presented to the user (See Abstract, Col. 3, 59- Col.4, 8 Col.10, 51-59, fig.19, element 203). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

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one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lanier's invention to incorporate the features of Horvitz invention in order to design a system with more efficient filtering capabilities to better match the user's specifications with presented materials.

With respect to claims 2 and 4, Horvitz further discloses that the user interface is arranged to substitute at least one information presentation signal based on user's input (e.g., the probability indicator for the relevant help topics varies based on user's input question) (See figs, 18-20).

With respect to claims 5 and 6, Horvitz further discloses indicating the time interval during which the collection of information presentation signals are to be presented to the user (See Col.26, 31- Col. 39 and figure 28).

Regarding claims 7, Horvitz further disclose a degree of correspondence between the selected rules and the user preference rule (e.g. probability of help request based on users preferences stored in user's profile) (See Figure 19, element 203), and a predetermined kind of action the selected rules predominantly contributes to (See Col.23, 44-60).

Regarding claim 15, Horvitz further discloses a computer program comprising code enabling a processor to execute the method of claim 14. (See Col.11, 60- Col.12, 21)

Claims 3 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanier et al. (US 5,103,498) in view of Horvitz et al. (US

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6,262,730) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Appling III (US 2004/0091232).

Regarding claim 3, Lanier discloses that the tutorials are presented in text format (See figure 11, element 336). Lanier/Horvitz do not specifically disclose other forms of presenting help material (e.g. tutorials) to the user. However, Appling teaches a system for effecting a presentation, wherein the user can select specific theme, music and images to be associated with the tutorial presentations (See Abstract, [0023]-[0024], [0044] and figure 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Lanier/ Horvitz invention to include the features of Appling invention in order to provide a more effective tutoring environment for the users.

Regarding claims 8-12, In addition to the features described for claim 1 above, Lanier/Horvitz disclose performing mathematical calculations which specify the combination of combined actions of selected rules (See Col.3, 40-58). Lanier/Horvitz does not specifically disclose that the human generated information describe a multimedia item to the user. Appling discloses a system for effecting a presentation, wherein the user's input are implemented in generation and presentation of tutorial material (See Abstract, [0023]-[0024], [0044] and figure 5). Appling further discloses a tutorial generation unit arranged to receive data on user preferences from a user preference determination unit (e.g. the processor receives user's preferences and based on the information generates tutorial materials) (See figure 5, elements 530, 100

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and 535), wherein the tutorial generation unit is arranged to explain to the user the behavior of the multimedia item (See [0087]). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the features of Lanier/Horvitz invention to incorporate the features of Appling's invention in order to design a more interactive tutorial generation unit.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Banafsheh Hadizonooz whose telephone number is 571-272-1242. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272- 7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Cameron Saadat/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3715